

(III) A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A NEW LANDFILL WITHIN THE FACILITY BOUNDARY IDENTIFIED IN THE FACILITY PLAN OF A LANDFILL PERMITTED ON OR BEFORE 1 JUNE 2006; (IV) A PERMIT TO OPERATE A NEW LANDFILL IF A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT THE NEW LANDFILL WAS ISSUED ON OR BEFORE 1 JUNE 2006; (V) A PERMIT FOR A SANITARY LANDFILL USED ONLY TO DISPOSE OF WASTE GENERATED BY A COAL-FIRED GENERATING UNIT THAT IS OWNED OR OPERATED BY AN INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITY SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF G.S. 143-215.107D; AND (VI) A PERMIT FOR A SANITARY LANDFILL DETERMINED TO BE NECESSARY BY THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO AN IMMINENT HAZARD TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR A NATURAL DISASTER; TO DIRECT THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION TO STUDY ISSUES RELATED TO SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL IN ORDER TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT; AND TO CREATE THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.

Whereas, North Carolina has experienced severe problems from widespread flooding during the past five years; and

Whereas, large areas of the State have also experienced severe drought conditions during the past five years; and

Whereas, groundwater is the source of drinking water for approximately half the population of the State; and

Whereas, depletion of certain large groundwater aquifers in the State has been documented in recent years; and

Whereas, protection and enhancement of water quality in the State's rivers and coastal estuaries is the declared public policy of the State; and

Whereas, North Carolina is home to many rare and endangered species of plants and animals; and

Whereas, the State has established many parks, natural areas, and wildlife refuges to protect habitats for migrating birds and other species; and

Whereas, many fragile ecosystems exist in the State which are in need of further study and protection; and

Whereas, the State recognizes that ecosystems transcend state borders, and that changes affecting the State's water, air, natural habitats, and scenic resources also have impacts outside the State; and

Whereas, it is the policy of the State to ensure the continued public enjoyment of the natural attractions of the State; and

Whereas, improperly sited, designed, or operated landfills have the potential to cause serious environmental damage, including groundwater contamination; and

Whereas, it is essential that the State study the siting, design, and operational requirements for landfills for the disposal of solid waste in areas susceptible to flooding from natural disasters, areas with high water tables, and other environmentally sensitive areas in order to protect public health and the environment; and

Whereas, it is critical to the protection of public health and the environment to adequately staff the State solid waste program to review permit applications, ensure compliance with State solid waste management laws and rules, and provide technical assistance on solid waste management issues; and